

The Confederate.

A. M. GORMAN, Editor.
All letters on business of the Office, to be directed to A. M. GORMAN & Co.

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Office of THE CONFEDERATE, on Fayetteville street, second door South of Pomeroy's Bookstore.

What North Carolina Will Do—Quiet and Harmony.

The present, indicates to the loyal mind of North Carolina at once a duty and an opportunity. Our contest for independence is at the turning point, for weal or woe, to the nation. The crisis is on whose passage will bring the calm of peace, or the storm and tempest of prolonged and aggravated struggle. Our soldiers, by a heroic enlistment, have set a noble example of devotion. Those of them just returned from an imprisonment of trial, hardship, and temptation, by their fidelity and courage have made of the cause a worship, and an adoration; and the women of the South, tenderly brave, self-sacrificing and enduring, diffuse an atmosphere redolent of patriotism, virtue and loyal integrity.

In this moment of bright hopes and cheering indications, the people of North Carolina are called to the exercise of their elective privilege of selecting their Governor for the ensuing two years. A single individual, backed by a few unwise counselors, has nominated himself for this office against the present incumbent, who is a candidate for reelection. The loyal, faithful sentiment of the State, says forbear—make no issue to divide our people—let us have "peace and harmony at home"—let the election pass this year without opposition to Gov. Vance, who is recognized, on all hands, to be "true and reliable upon the essential question of maintaining the rights of the South and prosecuting the war to an honorable termination." If the people will this, it can be accomplished. In the town of Wilmington, a meeting has lately been held, where proceedings are a model of mutual forbearance on the part of differing political opinions for the sake of concord. Out of the resolutions there adopted, we submit a platform upon which every right-minded, loyal citizen of North Carolina can stand and support Gov. Vance.

WHEREAS, It is at all times the right as well as the privilege of a free people to assemble together for consultation upon the affairs of the country, and for the expression of their opinions in regard to public men and public measures; AND WHEREAS, the present appears to us to be a time that calls for such consultation, and demands such expression of opinion upon the part of all those who are heartily devoted to the success of the Confederate States in the great struggle in which they are now engaged for the protection of their institutions, and the assertion of their independence. Be it therefore,

Resolved, That we, a portion of the people of New Hanover county, in public meeting assembled, believing in the justice of our cause, and relying upon the aid and protection of Divine Providence, do hereby renew our vows of fidelity to our country, pledging to it all that we have and all that we are, and that we will stand by it to the last.

Resolved, That we, the undersigned, do hereby pledge our lives and fortunes to the support of the Confederate States, and that we will stand by it to the last.

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have been denounced and persecuted by Gov. Vance and his party as "secessionists and destructive," to be content with a simple enunciation of this purpose to concur in Gov. Vance's reelection, or will they seek to engraft (by way of avoiding misconception) into their action their expressions of confidence in President Davis, and their unfaltering support of his administration. With all deference to our brethren in various portions of the State, we think they may well limit themselves to the Wilmington platform, as we here present it.

The administration of Mr. Davis has more than once been endorsed unanimously by the legislature of this State—and it is not now on trial—and there is no necessity to bring it into the struggle. If our cause fails, it will perish in the general ruin and destruction. If we succeed, and history's impartial truth shall bring to light the hidden and unseen things, Mr. Davis will be consecrated in the hearts of his countrymen, along with our glorious success. The monument of his fame shall be built on the rock of independence, and ornamented and garnished by the veneration and affections of a triumphant people. In the galaxy of great names, and heading the list, with Lee, and Beauregard, and Johnston, and Bragg, and Polk, and the host of immortal heroes, it will be inscribed to endless ages for classic renown.

His friends may well wait upon these events. In the meantime the main business is to secure the triumph of loyalty in the State; not so much the defeat of Mr. Holden—for that is an event sure beyond peradventure—but the securing of a true legislature, and the establishment of a right Confederate feeling in North Carolina.

We would exhort, therefore, all loyal men, in their meetings to nominate Gov. Vance, and to select candidates for the legislature, to unite on general principles of fidelity to the country, where all may stand shoulder to shoulder, without pricking each other with political party differences.

To this end the resolutions we have selected are admirably adapted, and we respectfully urge them on the Confederate Platform in North Carolina.

Sensation Rumors.

We are surprised to see in the Charleston Courier, copied from the Atlanta Confederacy, the following: "It is said, with what degree of truth we are not advised, that to-day North Carolina is thoroughly subjected to military rule. We hear of the suppression of a newspaper in that State, and that there are now confined in a prison there some four hundred civilians."

And this has been used to alarm "members of the Georgia Legislature," and to give justification to Gov. Brown's extraordinary message.

There is not a word of truth in the statement. So far from military rule prevailing here, it is the only State in the Confederacy where the fiat of a single judge has interfered to prevent the enrollment of the principals of substitutes—the War Department having here consented to allow Judge Pearson's decision to remain uncontroverted till the Supreme Court can assemble and sustain or reverse it. (This we have heard.) There has been no such thing in this State.

Mr. Holden, the editor of the Standard, became a candidate for Governor. Just before this, he suspended his paper, and the Progress, with his sanction, we presume, states the reason to be, that his "office had been mobbed and his life threatened, and in the suspension of his paper he acted upon the advice of judicious friends." We do not believe there has been the slightest danger to Mr. Holden's life or person, except as he should make both liable to criminal prosecution by plain violations of the laws, and of the safety of the country; and we do not think there are many papers in the State that would have suspended from threats of violence. Indeed, Mr. Holden and his friends have done more than all others to invoke mobs, as can be shown from his journal.

Nor has there been a single civilian in North Carolina arrested, that we are aware of, for any of the criminal offenses set forth in the act, except for attempts "to avoid service," and, as we have said, the habeas corpus has been applied in some of those cases, and the question now is pending.

If ever there was a time when the suspension of the habeas corpus could become necessary in North Carolina, it was when Congress enacted its suspension. An agitation of the most dangerous character pervaded the State; the published articles of the two papers in Raleigh were re-published from week to week in the Yankee press at Newbern, in order to show the readiness of the State to succumb to the Federal rule; the men who deserted from the North Carolina troops, when undergoing sentence of death attributed their end to the Standard; its editor had openly avowed his readiness, through a convention, by means of North Carolina commissioners, to treat with the Federal government and make peace by disrupting the Confederacy, through the surrender of a part of Virginia, and all of Kentucky and Missouri. Men who, by accidental circumstances, had acquired a sort of prominence, had declared for this convention, with a view to set at naught the Confederate government, and "take the affairs of the State into its own hands," and a wide-spread and most injurious discontent prevailed. Officers of the State government, military and civil, favored this seditious movement, and some of them went so far as to declare that the object was to secede from the Confederacy, and that they favored it. More can be proved on some men in North Carolina than they are aware of; but no one has desired to see the past brought in judgment upon them. All true men are content, if the agitation cease.

Mr. Holden is now a candidate against Gov.

Vance, and he has been treated with more consideration than he was ever wont to treat candidates who differed from him. Having no inclination to assail him personally, and being governed by our own self-respect, we have abstained from all allusions to him of a personal character, giving him credit indeed, for qualities to which, in candor, we thought him entitled. Mr. Holden has chosen himself not to go out and canvass. He says he will not invite the people out to "harangue them for votes." It is true he has always heretofore recommended popular canvasses. He invited the people to the most exciting public meetings, last summer—and again, but lately, this spring; and in the very same paper which contains his announcement, he urges county meetings for the nomination of party candidates for the Legislature. But all this is a question of consistency; and this the people do not look for from Mr. Holden, seeing that he has, at one time or another, embraced all shades of opinion—both as to men, parties and principles. Mr. Holden has lately been invited out to address the people, and has declined, as we learn, on grounds of personal safety. Now for ourselves, we do not intend to assail Mr. Holden personally. We again readily accord to him many qualities which have attracted our sympathy. We blame others more than him for his present position. We would countenance no violence towards him or his—and we think, if we were in his place, we would fear none. He may with perfect safety accompany Gov. Vance to meetings of the people, unless, of course, he should choose to indulge in such obnoxious discourse as would shock the public sense.

The good effect of the suspension of the habeas corpus is visible everywhere in North Carolina. It has put men to thinking; and the body of the people who for awhile had been impeded on by scheming agitators, have had opportunity for reflection, and with one consent have given the go-by to all purposes of evil or dangerous tendency. Throughout the entire State, men of all parties are declaring against Mr. Holden, and as far as we can see, there is not a shadow of a chance for his success. He has been abandoned, indeed, by men of whom he had reason to hope differently. But every county meeting, every meeting of the soldiers, the whole press of the State, with two or three exceptions—and they are neutral or want to be so—are supporting Gov. Vance. Indeed Mr. Holden seems to be his own candidate, and no body else's.

The instruction from the War Department with reference to the action of the government in the class of cases likely to fall under the suspension of the habeas corpus, give general satisfaction. Already the public are convinced that no danger exists to the rights, liberties or privileges of good citizens. We copy below the instructions, that all may be how careful the government is to avoid anything which might seem to be arbitrary or oppressive:

"There will be appointed by this Department, for each military division of the Confederacy, east of the Mississippi river, one or more competent persons as commissioners, to investigate the cases of persons who may be arrested or detained by any military authority, or any cause, and to report the same to the Department. The persons so appointed will be given to him by the Department commander as soon as practicable after they are made, and he will proceed to investigate the same. If, upon examination, a reasonable and probable cause for detention does not appear, he will certify the fact to the General or other officer in command, who will immediately discharge the prisoner from custody. If, on the other hand, a reasonable and probable cause does appear, the commissioner will forthwith transmit to the Department a copy of the evidence taken in the case, with his opinion thereon, for its action, and meanwhile the prisoner shall remain in custody."

"In all cases in which a person who has been enlisted in the army and is one of the acts of Congress to provide for the public defence, or to raise troops to serve during the war, or to provide for local defence and special service, or who has been enlisted or enrolled for service under the act of Congress to provide for the public defence, or has been placed in the military service by the act of Congress to organize forces to serve during the war, approved 17th February, 1864, shall be held in custody for desertion, or encouraging desertions, or harboring deserters, for attempts to avoid military service, or of fleeing, corresponding to the act of Congress to provide for the public defence, or to raise troops to serve during the war, or to provide for local defence and special service, or who has been enlisted or enrolled for service under the act of Congress to provide for the public defence, or has been placed in the military service by the act of Congress to organize forces to 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